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INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1047  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0125  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 3028  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0373  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0195

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 001280

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2016

TAGS: PHUM NO

SUBJECT: NORWAY MAINTAINS SUPPORT FOR UN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DECLARATION

REF: A. STATE 169257

1B. OSLO 0705

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Kevin M. Johnson for reasons 1.4  
b and d

(C) On October 11 we delivered reftel demarche and white papers to Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office Director for Human Rights and Democracy, Tine Mørch Smith. Smith accepted the documents and said that Norway intends to support the declaration without any changes. She was aware of our concerns which were presented in our prior joint demarche (reftel B) and said that while the text of the declaration is not perfect, the document is, none the less, the result of over a decade of work and the only document on indigenous rights that has a chance of being adopted by the assembly. Norway still plans to give an "Explanation of Vote" to define how Norway interprets ambiguous passages in the document relating to self-determination and indigenous rights, particularly involving Norway's Sami population.

WHITNEY